



Financial Assistance

School gardens will need some cash to get started, but the actual amount can vary significantly. Start off small and grow, as resources become available.

Most successful school garden programs have the support of the local community. Use the budget that is in the school garden plan to approach local businesses, community/service organizations, and parents with the project's various needs. Ask for specific items (for example, tools, topsoil, fencing, and wood), not just general funding for the garden. Make requests on school letterhead or in person. Include the students as much as possible when the garden team approaches different groups for support. Local sources for support may include:

- parent-teacher organizations
- community businesses, such as nurseries and garden centers, lumber/hardware/plumbing, franchises
- garden clubs
- horticultural commercial organizations, such as California Association of Nurserymen
- county farm bureau (Look in telephone book under "[County Name] Farm Bureau.")
- service organizations, such as Rotary, Lions, and Kiwanis

Good publicity about your project will make it easier to gain support. People like to support a successful program. Take pictures, invite local officials to special events, contact the local news media, and be an expert on your school's garden project.

A teacher starting a garden project at a middle school raised support in the following way. The students drew up plans for the garden. Then he and a few students went to the local lumber companies to present their project. They requested wood for fence posts and garden beds. The lumber companies responded, and the students got busy building. Next, the students drew pictures of the new garden. The teacher and students went to other businesses. They showed the work they had already done and asked for specific items or money for those items to continue the project. They successfully raised the needed resources, making their community more aware of their school in the process.

Remember that donated time and labor is also an important resource for the school garden. Consider involving 4-H, summer boys and girls club, Future Farmers of America, high school shop classes and other groups for help with specific tasks.

Highlight groups or individuals that have donated to your garden. Some schools place signs or plaques in the garden with the name(s) of their supporters.

Special projects by the students can also help fund the school garden. These may include selling seedlings, produce, and garden art and crafts to the community. Be creative!

- Community development block grants (federal funds to U.S. cities)
- Community foundations
- Public school/local education fund foundations
- Adopt-a-school (adopt-a-farmer) partnerships between schools and businesses

Manuals that provide basic information on how to start a school garden, such as those by the National Gardening Association and or Life Lab Science Program (see "Resource Organizations"), contain more information and ideas for how to successfully raise funds for the school garden project.

A list of selected organizations that may provide support for school garden projects follows.

America the Beautiful Funds

1511 K Street, N.W., Suite 611
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 638-1649

National nonprofit association to assist development of community-level programs and projects. Distributes free seeds for community gardens and education programs.

American Honda Foundation

P.O. Box 2205
Torrance, CA 90509-2205
(310) 781-4090

Seeks school district projects that involve children in science studies. Quarterly deadlines are February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. To apply, send mailing label with name and address.

California Association of Nurseryman

3947 Lennane Drive, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 928-3900

Provides horticultural curriculum for Grades K-6.

California Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness Program (CANFit), (510) 934-9102, www.canfit.org.

CANFit provides planning and intervention nutrition and fitness grants to organizations serving low-income African-American, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian youth 10-14 years old. It offers training and technical assistance to support grantees.

California Department of Education

Various offices with the Department offer grants that may accommodate a school garden project. A few of the key ones include:

- **Nutrition Services Division (NSD), (916) 445-0850.** NSD has spearheaded the "garden in every school" initiative since its inception in 1995. It offers annual competitive, minigrants for garden-enhanced nutrition education projects.



- **Environmental Education Office (EEO)**, (916) 322-9503. EEO has an Environmental Education Grant Program that includes different types of grants ranging in dollar amount from about \$3,000 to \$15,000.

Grants from other programs such as the CalServe (916-653-3768), Safe Schools and Violence Prevention (916-323-2183), Healthy Start and After-School (916-657-3558) programs may provide opportunities for garden projects as you address their specific program goals. In addition, your school may be able to use Title 1 or Title VII (Academic Excellence Project) funds for a garden program. There are restrictions on the use of these funds, so check with your local administrator for more information.

California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)

CIWMB has funded the CDE garden minigrants since 1999. For more information about CIWMB, refer to the "Resource Organizations" section.

Local waste management boards may help fund or supply compost to school garden programs that incorporate composting, vermicomposting (worms), recycling, or other waste reduction programs. Check the white pages under "County Government, Public Works Agency" for a local listing.

Coca-Cola Foundation Grants Program

P.O. Drawer 1734
Atlanta, GA 30301
(404) 676-3240

Support to education projects, including those that link precollege with higher education and address early childhood education. Open to nonprofit organizations, including schools.

Environmental Protection Agency-Environmental Education Grants

Office of Environmental Education Grants
401 M Street, S.W., Room 368
Washington, DC 20460
(202) 260-8619

www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants

Funds projects to design, demonstrate, or disseminate practices, methods, or techniques related to environmental education. Guidelines define environmental education as "a process that leads to responsible individual and group actions."

The Foundation Center

1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 938
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 331-1400

The Foundation's directory lists corporate and private foundations. Call for locations and phone numbers of regional offices.

General Mills Foundation Grants

P.O. Box 1113
Minneapolis, MN 55440
(763) 764-2311

Grants support projects that emphasize student achievement, literacy, job training, efficiently using existing resources, early childhood development, and encouraging self-sufficiency among disadvantaged individuals and other areas. Open to tax-exempt organizations, including schools.



Hitachi Foundation

1509 22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 457-0588
www.hitachi.org

Funds projects that foster understanding of diversity and global issues across disciplines, connect learning objectives with community services, and pursue work-force development. Open to tax-exempt organizations, including schools. Deadlines for preliminary proposals are February 1 and October 1.

Lily Ponds for Youth Grant Program

P.O. Box 10
Buckeystown, MD 21717
(301) 874-5503

Lily Ponds Water Gardens, a retailer, will match dollars for youths to develop, implement, and cultivate an aquatic environment.

Milken Family Foundation

1250 Fourth Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 998-2800
www.mff.org

Awards grants nationally for preschool through secondary school education. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The Foundation also funds school-based programs that contribute to the revitalization of the community.

National Endowment for the Humanities

Division of Public Programs, Room 426
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20506
(202) 606-8267
www.neh.gov

Government agency that distributes funds for humanities-oriented events and programs. Website contains the entire program information and instructions for application. They deal mostly with the history of environmental policy and related issues.

National Gardening Association

1100 Dorset Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
(800) 538-7476
www.kidsgardening.com

School garden grants for all grade levels. "Growing Ideas: A Journal of Garden-Based Learning" monthly magazine.

National Science Foundation

Grants and Agreements
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230
(703) 292-8210

Government agency that distributes funds for science education programs. Competition is national, but many programs have received funding.



National Science Teachers' Award Programs

1840 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201-3000
(703) 243-7100
www.nsta.org

Awards teachers for innovative science projects and exemplary science education programs. Competition is national, but many programs have received funding.

National Tree Trust

1120 G Street, N.W., Suite 770
Washington, DC 20005
(800) 846-8733

Serves as a catalyst for local volunteer and community service groups in the growing, planting, and maintaining trees in rural communities, urban areas, and along the nation's highways. Mobilizes volunteer groups, promotes public awareness, provides grants, and unites civic and corporate institutions in support of local tree planting and education projects.

Rockefeller School Reform Program - Rockefeller Foundation

420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018
(212) 852-8442
www.rockfound.org

Funds programs that (1) improve arts and humanities education for at-risk children with emphasis on intercultural understanding; and (2) feature school and family collaboration to prepare children for learning.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-2223
(202) 720-5203

Funds projects that help advance knowledge about sustainable agriculture practices and systems nationwide. SAREP administers a wide variety of grants that cover the breadth of sustainable agriculture.

Toyota TAPESTRY Grants for Teachers c/o NSTA

1840 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22207-3000
(888) 400-6782 X591
www.nsta.org

Up to \$500,000 each year is available to teachers who propose innovative one-year programs with budgets of up to \$10,000 that will enhance science education in their schools.

William G. Carr Grants

National Foundation for the Improvement of Education
1201 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-3207
(202) 822-7840
www.nfie.org

Supports teaching projects that have strong potential for contributing to some aspect of international cooperation or global peace. Open to members of the National Education Association.

